

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, MILI

SUBJ: PINOCHET SPEAKS HARSHLY OF POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

1. SUMMARY. GEN. PINOCHET COMMEMORATED SECOND MONTH OF COUP WITH SOME HARSH WORDS ABOUT CHILEAN POLITICS. CONCERN ABOUT GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF CORPORATISM ENUNCIATED BY EX-PN SENATOR BULNES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH EL MERCURIO AT BEGINNING THIRD MONTH JUNTA RULE, GEN. PINOCHET SPOKE IN GENERALLY DISPARAGING TERMS ABOUT CHILEAN POLITICS AND POLITICIANS AND ANNOUNCED JUNTA WILL TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO KEEP POLITICS OUT OF ITS ADMINISTRATION. PINOCHET AGREED WITH INTERVIEW'S POINT THAT MILITARY HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED TO GOVERN CHILE BUT THEN NOTED THAT NO CHILEAN GOVT OF THIS CENTURY HAD BEEN TRULY READY TO RULE UPON ASSUMING POWER. HE REASSERTED MILITARY'S LINE THAT IT HAS NO DESIRE TO PERPETUATE ITSELF IN POWER, NOR HAS IT FIXED DEADLINE FOR WHEN IT MUST ABANDON GOVT CONTRARY TO WHAT "CERTAIN POLITICIANS HAVE SAID BY INTERPRETING OUR WORDS BY THEIR OWN WHIM."

3. PINOCHET STATED THAT JUNTA FACED WITH THREE ALTERNATIVES WHEN IT CAME TO POWER. FIRST WAS TO BE TRANSITIONAL GOVT BETWEEN TWO POLITICAL REGIME; SECOND, WAS TO BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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"INITIATORS OF GREAT CIVIC-MILITARY MOVEMENT TO CLEANSE NATION'S INSTITUTIONS." THIRD ALTERNATIVE WAS TO BECOME PERMANENT MILITARY REGIME DEVOTED TO GOOD ADMINISTRATION. LATTER CHOICE UNACCEPTABLE GIVEN CHILEAN ARMED FORCES' HISTORY.

DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF "MORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CORRUPTION" OF PREVIOUS REGIME MADE FIRST CHOICE SIMILARLY IMPOSSIBLE.

4. PINOCHET THEN ASSERTED THAT INITIATION OF CAMPAIGN OF NATIONAL PURIFICATION WAS IMPERATIVE TO CLEANSE NATION OF EFFECTS OF ALLENDE GOVT, BUT THAT ALL PREVIOUS REGIMES MUST BEAR PART OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SETTING STAGE FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST 3 YEARS.

5. GEN. PINOCHET PROCEEDED TO ANSWER RHETORICAL QUESTION AS TO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN "IF WE TRUNED OVER POWER TO POLITICAL PARTIES TOMORROW" BY STATING THAT CHILE WOULD SUFFER THE WORST WAR IN ITS HISTORY. "THOSE WHO PRESS FOR DEADLINES (ON MILITARY CONTROL) HAVE NOT UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN CHILE OR SIMPLY ARE IRRESPONSIBLY SUICIDAL." NEW CIVIC-MILITARY MOVEMENT AS ENVISIONED BY JUNTA IS PRIMARILY NATIONALISTIC AND THUS "ALIEN TO ALL WHICH DIVIDES THE NATION, SUCH AS POLITICAL PARTIES. THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE DENY THEIR EXISTENCE, BUT RATHER THERE ARE NATIONAL INTERESTS SUPERIOR TO THOSE WHICH ARE MERELY PARTY CONCERNS." PINOCHET THEN ANNOUNCED GOVT WILL SOON MAKE PUBLIC NEW OATH TO WHICH GOVT EMPLOYEES MUST SUBSCRIBE, RENOUNCING POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN THEIR SPHERE OF GOVT RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. ROLE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE TO PLAY IN NEAR AND DISTANT CHILEAN FUTURE HAS BECOME TOPIC OF SOME PUBLIC SPECULATION. REGULATIONS TO GOVERN ACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN RECESS WHICH PROMISED BY THE GOVT MANY WEEKS AGO HAVE YET TO BE ISSUED. ATTENTION ON WHAT WILL BE LONGER RANGE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES HAS FOCUSED ON ACTIVITIES OF CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING COMMISSION WHICH MUST DEAL WITH ISSUE. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION WHICH AHAS BEEN PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE FOR MANY WEEKS FINALLY RATIFIED BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE DECREE PUBLISHED NOV 13 NAMING SEVEN MEMBERS. THEY ARE:

A. SERGIO DIEZ URZUA, FORMER PN SENATOR AND LAW PROFESSOR
B. ENRIQUE EVANS DE LA CUADRA, FREI UNDER SECRETARY OF JUSTICE
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C. JAIME GUZMAN ERRAZURIZ, LAW PROFESSOR, LEADING IDEOLOGUE OF GREMIALISTA MOVEMENT
D. GUSTAVO LORCA ROJAS, FORMER PN DEPUTY, LAW PROFESSOR
E. JORGE OVALLE QUIROZ, LAWYER, UNSUCCESSFUL PDR SENATORIAL CANDIDATE
F. ALEJANDRO SILVA BASCUNAN, PRESIDENT COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS (BAR ASSOCIATION), PDC FOUNDER

7. ALL COMMISSION'S MEMBERS, EXCEPT GUZMAN WHOSE ANTI-POLITICAL, PRO-GUILD (GREMIALISTA) BIAS IS WELL-KNOWN, HAVE HAD RECENT FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH POLITICAL PARTIES. HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR HOW STRONGLY EACH WILL SEEK TO DEFEND THE PARTIES' STATUS QUO ANTE BELLUM ROLE IN NEW CONSTITUTION. DIEZ, A

RESPECTED CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER, IS QUOTED IN THIS WEEK'S 'QUE PASA' AS FAVORING CONTINUING ACTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT ON LIMITED BASIS WHICH WOULD PREVENT THEM FROM TAKING PART IN ELECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, UNIVERSITIES, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, ETC. SUCH ORGANIZATIONS ARE BACKBONE OF PDC, WHICH WOULD NO DOUBT RESENT SUCH SETUP.

8. PN EX-SEN. FRANCISCO BULNESS TOLD "LA SEGUNDA" LAST WEEK THAT CORPORATE GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM BASED ON GUILD REPRESENTATION WOULD BE UNWORKABLE IN CHILE AND SUBJECT TO SAME IMPERFECTIONS AND VICES THAT PAST POLITICAL SYSTEM HARBORED. BULNES OFFERED HIS OWN IDEAS WHICH INCLUDE MAINTAINING OLD SYSTEM WITH CERTAIN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES, INTER ALIA, DEPOLITIZATION OF SENATE VIA ELECTION OF MEMBERS BY ELECTORAL COLLEGE, AND PROHIBITION AGAINST SENATORS RUNNING FOR SECOND TERM OR FOR PRESIDENCY. BULNES ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SENATE BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO CALL NATIONAL PLEBISCITES, AND THAT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BE DECIDED BY PUBLIC AT LARGE WITH SECOND ROUND IF NECESSARY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO HIGHEST VOTE GETTERS. WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "ERCILLA" FOUND BULNES' THOUGHTS OF SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO MERIT REPRINTING SIGNIFICANT SECTIONS OF THE INTERVIEW.

9. BULNES' REMARKS ALSO BEING INTERPRETED IN INFORMAL POLITICAL CIRCLES AS OPENING GUN IN PUBLIC BATTLE BETWEEN OLD LINE FACTION OF PN (BULNES, EX-SENATORS OCHAGAVIA, PHILLIPS) AND NEWER PARTY LEADERSHIP (JARPA, ARNELLO). LATTER GROUP HAS LARGELY ADOPTED VIEW THAT POLITICAL PARTIES ANACHRONISTIC IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CHILEAN CONTEXT. FORMER GROUP, SOME FROM FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN PLAYING CHILEAN POLITICAL GAME FOR CENTURIES, ARE ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE POLITICAL TRADITIONS. ACCORDING TO ONE PDC SOURCE, PHILLIPS IS CURRENTLY MEETING WITH A PDC REPRESENTATIVE, PROBABLY EX-SEN. RAFAEL MORENO, TO ESTABLISH JOINT LINE ON FUTURE OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

10. ANOTHER PDC SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT MANY IN PARTY UPSET BY PINOCHET'S REMARKS WHICH THEY INTERPRET TO BE JUNTA'S DEFINITIVE ANTI-POLITICAL STATEMENT. HIS CRITICISM OF POLITICIANS SETTING DEADLINES FOR MILITARY RULE IS BEING SEEN AS AIMED DIRECTLY AT PDC, SOME OF WHOSE LEADERS HAVE REPORTEDLY VENTURED TO FOREIGN PRESS IDEAS ABOUT HOW LONG MILITARY SHOULD STAY IN POWER. "THEY'43 SWEEPING THE FLOOR WITH US," SOURCE CONTENDED. PINOCHET'S EMPHASIS ON CREATION OF "GREAT CIVIC-MILITARY MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL PURIFICATION" ALSO LEAVES SOME PDCERS WITH UNEASY FEELING THAT GOVT SETTING STATE FOR CREATION OF ITS OWN POLITICAL FORCE.

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